

Certificate in Health Humanities

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Overview

The University of Pittsburgh, with its range of schools of the health sciences and diverse career trajectories for students interested in health and healthcare, is at the forefront of embracing a view of healthcare and health as encompassing more than medical science. The health humanities provide insight into the human condition, suffering, personhood, and our responsibility to each other. They also offer a historical perspective on healthcare. Attention to literature and the arts helps to develop and nurture skills of observation, analysis, empathy, and self-reflection – skills that are essential for humane healthcare. The social sciences help us to understand how bioscience and medicine take place within cultural and social contexts and how culture interacts with the individual experience of illness.

The Certificate in Health Humanities is designed for students interested in examining the sociocultural context and historical foundations of medicine and healthcare. The certificate will focus students on understanding sociocultural and philosophical dimensions of health, disease, and disability; and train them in using diverse methods of the arts, humanities, and social sciences to explore questions animating medicine and healthcare.

The certificate includes three required interdisciplinary courses and three electives which students will choose in consultation with the Certificate in Health Humanities advisor from a pool of courses that address humane aspects of health and medicine.

Requirements

This certificate program requires completion of 18 credits.

Core courses

ENGLIT 0541 Literature and Medicine
SOC 0477 Medical Sociology
ENGLIT 1015 Unruly Bodies in Culture, Art, and Medicine

Elective courses

Students will choose three courses from the following lists of lower-level and upper-level courses.

Lower-level electives

Choose one of the following courses

ANTH 0717 Magic, Witchcraft, and the Supernatural Body
CLASS 0618 or HAA 0018 Death in the Ancient World
CLASS 0650 Archaeology of the Body
ECON 0220 Intro to Health Economics
ENGCOMP 0535 Writing in the Health Science Professions
ENGFLM 0585 or FMST 0790 Technologies of the Body
ENGLIT 0612 Literature and Science
ENGLIT 0630 Sexuality and Representation
ENGWT 0610 Intro to Journalism and Nonfiction
FR 0088 Ailing Bodies: Narratives of Health and Illness
GSWS 0100 Intro to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
GSWS 0500 Sex and Sexualities
HPS 0427 Myth and Science
HPS 0515 Magic, Medicine and Science
HPS 0612 Mind and Medicine
HPS 0613 Morality and Medicine

NROSCI 0080 Brain and Behavior
NROSCI 0081 Drugs and Behavior
PHIL 0360 Intro to Biomedical Ethics
PSY 0505 Introduction to Biopsychology
SOC 0007 Social Problems
SOC 0436 Social Aspects of Sexuality
SOC 0444 Urban Sociology
SOC 0471 Deviance and Social Control
SOC 0473 Globalization and Health
SOC 0477 Medical Sociology
STAT 0800 Statistics in the Modern World

Upper-level electives

Choose one of the following courses

AFRCNA 1510 Health in the African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1710 African American Health Issues
AFRCNA 1903 Directed Reading
ANTH 1725 Social Health Issues in East Africa
ANTH 1761 Patients and Healers
ANTH 1793 Asian Medical Systems
CLASS 1090 or HIST 1714 or RELGST 1151 Death in the Mediterranean World
CLASS 1436 or RELGST 1150 Body and Society in Late Antiquity
COMMRC 1101 Evidence
COMMRC 1123 Rhetorical Criticism
COMMRC 1143 Knowledge, Power and Desire
ENGCOMP 1102 The Language of Medicine
ENGFLM 1671 Making the Documentary
ENGLIT 1180 Humans, Animals, Machines in Victorian

Literature

ENGWRT 1330 Intermediate Nonfiction
ENGWRT 1390 Readings in Contemporary Non-fiction
GSWS 1141 Gender and Science
HIST 1026 Sex in the Americas
HIST 1090 or SOC 1488 History of Medicine and Health Care
HIST 1091 Global Health History: Historical Perspective
HIST 1197 Black Death: Plague and History
HIST 1425 History of Medicine in China
HIST 1484 or RELGST 1554 Death and Beyond in the Buddhist

Cultures

HIST 1725 Disease and Health in Modern Africa
HPS 1623 or RELGST 1725 Death and the Healthcare

Professions

PHIL 1360 Biomedical Ethics
PSY 1110 Psychological Aspects of Human Sexuality
PSY 1205 Abnormal Psychology
PSY 1230 Psychology of Death and Dying
PSY 1357 Psychology of Aging
PSY 1215 Health Psychology

PSY 1470 Cognition and the Brain
RELGST 1558 Buddhism and Psychology
SOC 1324 Social Problems and Moral Crusades
SOC 1445 Society and Environment
SOC 1450 Health and Illness
SPAN 1323 Medical Spanish
BIOETH 2001 UHC Ethics and Aging
BIOETH 2658 UHC Philosophy of Medicine
BIOETH 2664 UHC Bioethics

Capstone

Students may tailor their course of study to their particular interests and goals, ensuring that they develop depth of understanding in the methods and content of medical humanities. Students will consult with the Certificate in Health Humanities advisor to discuss development of this thematic cluster of electives.

Grade Requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each course that counts toward the certificate.

Satisfactory/No Credit Option

There is no limit to the number of courses that can be taken on the S/NC basis for this certificate.

Students interested in the certificate should contact one of the advisors in the Department of English.

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